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Disability Commission Minutes 01/21/04

ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2004

Members Present: Barbara Jones, Barbara Cutler, Lin Baker, Joe Giurleo

Members Absent: Tom Boudreau, Louis Krodell

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Guest Present: Paolo Marinelli

Meeting called to order:

Barbara C. called the meeting to order at 4:15 P.M.

Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2003:

Barbara J. moved acceptance of the December 17, 2003 Meeting Minutes seconded by Joe. SO VOTED

Snow Removal Committee:

Barbara J. said that the Snow Removal Committee (SRC) is divided as to plowing the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail. Barbara J. said that there is a group of cross country skiers that do not want the trail plowed. Barbara J. said that in a draft report prepared by the (SRC) the committee states that 10% of Arlington households have no motor vehicle and depends on walking, bicycling and public transit for basic mobility. The report indicates that poorly maintained pedestrian pathways disproportionately disadvantage these residents. Barbara J. said that keeping pedestrian pathways clear and accessible should be a priority that snow and ice can make the safest pathways dangerous. Pedestrian safety was the single most important concern of the respondents to Vision 2020 survey's special segment on transportation. Barbara J. said that the report indicates that by clearing the roadways and taking little or no responsibility for the sidewalks, crosswalks, and bus stops sends a message that little or no value is placed on the safety and mobility of those who walk on or use public transit. Barbara J. said that the report indicates that a possible solution to snow being plowed onto corners, ramps, bus stops and crosswalks would be to change plowing practices. Remove snow from critical corners. Ensure that bus stops and crosswalks are cleared. Barbara J. said that the report indicates that when sidewalks are not cleared the Town By-Law regarding snow removal from sidewalks should be enforced. Paolo said that on the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail there are several reasons that the Town does not plow. Paolo said the reasons are concern that no crown exists down the middle of the trail, which would result with standing water that could freeze. The Town does not have the available equipment to plow the Trail and needs to concentrate on the business district. Noise created by plowing is a concern to neighbors that abut the Trail; also plowing could damage the bikeway. Barbara C. said that the Disability Commission needs to allow the SRC to complete their report and recommendations before we decide to endorse or disagree with the report. Lin suggested that the Disability Commission endorse cleaning snow from the bikeway.

Commission Membership:

Jack said that Kevin O'Brien, Director of Planning & Community Development, has agreed to be considered by the Acting Town Manager for Alan's replacement on the Commission. Jack said that Patsy Kraemer is seeking two additional members to bring the Commission to full membership.

Polling Place Survey:

Jack said that on January 9th he participated in a polling place survey in Arlington conducted by the Mass. Office on Disability. Jack said that MOD is halfway completed with surveying all the Polling Locations in Massachusetts. Jack said that polling places with inadequate, inappropriate or no designated parking spaces in Arlington include Thompson, Peirce, Dallin and the Gibbs. The

Edith Fox Library has an accessible entrance on the side, but it is not marked for access. The Dallin and Thompson Schools have access issues with the entrance to the buildings.

Walkway at Peirce School:

Jack said that Bruce Bruneau, MOD Community Access Monitor Project Coordinator, requested that the Commission send a letter to Myra Berloff, Acting Director at the Mass. Office on Disability (MOD), requesting that MOD conduct a survey of the walkway at the Peirce School.

Other Business:

Jack said that all listed residents on the Town's E911 list are being contacted to verify that no changes have occurred in type of disability and that the disabled resident on the E911 list still resides at the address.

Jack said that the Town has hired Kevin Strange as the new Town Web Master. Barbara C. suggested inviting Kevin Strange to a future meeting in order to discuss including the Disability Office on the Town's Web Site.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. requested that the Disability Commission be added to a list of organizations supporting MICASSA legislation. SO VOTED

Jack said that the Massachusetts State Legislature has approved funding for the Home Modifications Loan Program for people with disabilities through a bond providing \$10 million for a period of five years. The purpose of this program is to provide below market rate loans for modifications to the primary residence of adults with disabilities and families who have children with disabilities.

Jack said that requests for CDBG funds for Program Year 30, which commences July 1, 2004, need to be submitted by March 15, 2004.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.